

FOR THE HOME DRESSMAKER

Linen Blouses with Yak Lace.



Work Ahead for the Industrious Dressmaker on Beautiful Materials for Coming Summer's Wear

THE industrious home dress-maker is now making her summer blouses. Among the newest and prettiest that are not beyond the skill of the average amateur are linen etamines, trimmed with yak lace. Linen in all varieties of weave and

color will be in great demand for the coming summer's shirt waist, but the heavy weights will have the preference.

White will, of course, be the leader, for after all it is not so expensive when it is taken into consideration that no matter how often it is washed and laundered the color

is always fixed and remains bright and new-looking.

The new feature in trimming is heavy lace. The blouses illustrated in the sketches are all of white linen, trimmed with heavy yak lace and pearl buttons. Most of them button on a false lapel placed either down the centre or on the side.

The Peasant Girls of Europe Supply Materials for Fashion's Wigmakers

THE peasant girls of Southern Europe certainly do not coincide in the sentiment that "a woman's crowning glory is her hair." The major part of the one hundred thousand pounds of human hair which is annually imported into this country by wigmakers and dealers comes from the human hair markets of remote Bessarabia, German and French villages.

The hair of these villages is an established event and is recognized as a legitimate source of revenue by the peasant girls, who see nothing degrading in being shorn of their locks.

The peasant girls allow their tresses to grow very long and bestow a great deal of labor on them to add to their beauty. Every month a maid is held, the girl with the longest hair is held, the girls go to the end of the village street and walk about with their carefully combed hair let down. The buyers make a critical examination and the girl who has the longest hair is chosen. If the owner of the locks is willing to sell a bargain is immediately struck and the girl is taken to the other side, the buyer severs the tresses which she has purchased.

If she thinks he has made a good bargain it is not unusual for her to make some agreement with the girl for the purchase of her next crop at the same price. The girl who has been sold gives her directions as to how he would like her to tend it and how long she should let it grow.

It can be easily understood that the girls are often sorry when they have

been shorn of their locks, and are not completely consoled by the reflection that the price they have realized will make it unnecessary for them to work for several months. The prices secured are by no means small. Of course, the length, color, quantity and fineness influence the value of the crop. The most valuable is secured from the longest and finest, and can be converted into what must appear to a poor peasant girl to be a small fortune. A thousand dollars for the inconvenience of having to wear a closely-fitting cap is considered munificent compensation by the peasant girls, and yet the price of the two as which are made of pure hair white as snow and fine as spun silk.

The effect on the girl is not harmful. While in some cases each succeeding crop becomes weaker in quality and less productive, the effect is usually not so directly opposite effect. In no case, however, does the girl fail to secure a second crop after her initial experience. The girl is usually the most popular American woman among the peasant girls, whose locks are scanty need feel no compunction in pulling out the hair that accentuates the deficiencies of nature, even though they are the direct cause of this traffic in human hair among the peasant girls of the world. The girl who has cut her hair feels nothing degrading in it, and, while sometimes stricken with remorse immediately after the sale, always returns to her former condition and begins to see their locks growing again.

A STYLISH TROUSSEAU IS NOT BEYOND THE REACH OF THE
 ✦ ✦ ✦ BRIDE-ELECT OF MODEST MEANS ✦ ✦ ✦

WHEN a hundred and fifty or two hundred dollars is not considered an extravagant sum for a single gown, it would seem impossible for a girl to get a trousseau of costumes appropriate for all occasions with TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS. It will be seen from the accompanying list that a judicious selection and some industry makes this a very simple matter.

Care should be taken principally in the selection of colors. Black and white are always good, and admit of unlimited combinations. If the extra accessories are all in the bride's favorite color, it gives a prettily artistic individuality, with a touch of economy. Many more arrangements of costume can be made if the colored shirt waists, the neck dressings, the ribbons of the lingerie, the simple kimono, the bedroom slippers are all in pale blue, for instance.

Hand work will take time, but adds a refinement and Frenchy effect to the trousseau, is in much better taste and cheaper than sewed-on fussings.

The white wedding gown, made of simple material, with a moderate train, may be very useful afterwards, now that white is so much worn. The bodice will furnish the handsome waist of the trousseau. In the model pictured the skirt flounces are fastened to a lawn slip. The silk foundation being separate, it can be used with other garments.

A good ready-made suit from a reliable store which guarantees its fit, makes the best traveling and street costume, and is a better method than employing a cheap tailor. Such a suit, at \$35, is one of the latest for spring; the material a black cheviot of light weight; the lining is black taffeta.

Eight yards of point d'esprit, at fifty cents a yard, and two pieces of serpentine "Val" lace, narrow width, at \$1.25 a piece, make up a pretty little evening gown, to be worn over the silk slip of the crepe de Chine.

Good corsets, boots and gloves

are to be advised. Bargains in these things are rarely economical.

A stylish black hat, with no plumes to become dowdy, will be found a good investment. One in which some slight change of trimming can be easily made gives variety to a small wardrobe.

Twenty-five dollars will furnish an abundance of underclothes—

plain, if ready-made; or, if done by an ambitious girl at home, the daintiest may be got up for this sum.

No allowance has been made in this for a dressmaker's bill, but the \$16 surplus will supply a seamstress for several days in which the more difficult cutting and fitting may be prepared.

These Are the Figures Showing Actual Cost of the Various Items in the Trousseau:

6 1/2 ft. suit	\$55.00	Male, 1.00.	3.00
Crepe de chine, crown		Black taffeta for waist 4 yds.	1.00
15 yds. crepe de chine, @ 1.25	\$18.75	@ .75.	3.00
6 yds. lace, @ 2.00.	10.00	Light blue silk for waist—4 yds., @	7.50
12 yds. taffeta lining, @ .75.	9.00	3.00; embroidery material,	1.00
4 yds. white lawn, @ .25.	1.00	Materials for collar and cuffs.	1.00
		Materials for separate coat.	2.00
Tulle veil, 4 yds., @ 1.00.	37.55	Dressing sacque—4 yds. lawn, @ .25.	1.00
Spray orange blossoms	4.00	1.00	1.50
Lingerie	25.00	Light blue kimono	1.50
White gloves and dark, @ 1.50.	4.50	Corsets	6.00
White gloves	5.00	Black and white	5.00
White silk-faced stockings	1.00	Patent leather slippers	1.50
White tulle hat	7.00	Bedroom slippers	1.50
Black hat	10.00	Materials for two plain white	1.50
Black skirt	8.00	Law suits	1.50
Black walking skirt	8.00	Stockings	2.00
Materials for point d'esprit.	8.50	Seamstress	16.40
White lawn waist—4 yds.			
stamping and embroidery mate-		Total	\$200.00

Wonderful Work Done by the Busy
Little Ants

MANY wonderful things are related of ants—the most intelligent creatures of the insect world! Reports show that ant colonies have increased so in South Africa that they have become a pest to the residents of certain sections. In

the residents of certain sections. Indeed, it has become necessary to destroy them wholesale, and in doing this cannon, loaded with grape shot, are used. The charge is fired point blank at the mounds in which the ants live. Often these mounds reach twenty feet in height. They are pyramidal in form.

In South Africa the termites, or "warrior ants," work the greatest havoc. They live in a republic of their own. Some of them have wings. The workers, the soldiers and the queens, however, have none.

The workmen construct their buildings, the soldiers defend the colony and keep order, and the females, or queens, are cared for by all the others. These become, in point of fact, mere egg-laying machines, which have to remain tied to one spot.

The ants construct galleries which are as wide as the bore of a large cannon and which run three or four feet underground.

The nests are said to be 500 times as high as the ant's body, and it has been estimated that if we built our houses of the same scale, they would be four times as high as the pyramids of Egypt.

What Our British Cousins Are Wearing and Will Wear

AMERICAN women are always interested in what their sisters in London and on the Continent are wearing or intend to wear. A fashion writer in a current number of the *Illustrated London News* takes up the question of spring styles and discusses them thus:

"The craze for black and white is increasing instead of abating, and during February and March it will be combined with a new color combination—gray. We are obliged to wear warm garments, and at the same time require light effects. Rough serges, cream cloths, zibelines and beaver are tremendously in demand. There is no doubt now that the vivid green we have loved so dearly during the past season has given place to purples. Purples and mauves are gaining ground and will probably have a longer run of popularity than the new claret red. Gray, too, is widely used. Pastels are not so varied as purples and mauves."

"The deep blue note of color which has been so conspicuous in Paris for some time has not yet disappeared, but now its popularity is only a passing fancy. The cut of the dress has long it has lasted, for Parisians are proverbially fickle in the matter of color, although not so in the matter of cut. The dress for day wear they are faithful to brown and black. For evening wear they are leaning in favor, and very beautiful they are.

"Many novel evening frocks are made of blue, mauve and biscuit cloth. Such a gown requires exquisite cut, and should be finished with a soft drapery and a high collar. The most contrasting color. These individual touches are seldom queried if the whole dress is well made. The evening dress tempt a cloth gown in the evening unless you leave its manipulation in competent hands.

"Lace will be more worn than ever. Irish crochet and thick Italian lace become the favorite. The favorite color is velvet frocks. Velvet, let me tell you, will continue to be worn for another six months.

nothing more useful than velvet in a keen March wind and a searching light, when we want to look smart, and are yet shivering with cold! The advantage of a velvet frock is that it can be worn without an extra outdoor wrap.

"Fur toques are very large, mostly adorned with floral decoration and chiffon, while many of the picture hats for the Riviera are entirely of white tucks for chiffon, veiled in black Chantilly lace, encrusted with jet and silver. Warm with these are large flat stoles of white marabout, ermine or black chiffon.

"Of course, the all-black picture hat is never out of fashion, but only sparingly. In direct contrast to the large fur hats and toques, spring millinery will be extremely light both in material and in construction. Every-day use skirts are now decidedly fuller, and trains are no more. The change has been so great that no country girl becoming a dress social favorite and tuckings, that we have all fallen in with fashion's decrees.

"At the same time, I can imagine that the really short skirt is ever smart in London. The skirts of to-day, unless for practical country use, are cut quite short, and the skirts of the past are all round alike, and the back is practically no longer than the front. Personally, I cannot see that the short skirt is any more becoming than the long, but I am less of them. For weddings, receptions and smart wear, they are a good bit longer than the short ones, and the more respects appearances would appear in a short skirt, especially as when they are full they increase the size of the hips.

"The evening dress is becoming important in dress, in quaint enamel, old silver and gold, while gayer bangles would be worn with the costume and bodices. Fringes, too, are worn on evening frocks, but I think they should be used sparingly on cloth, and not too much on silk, for they form an offensive mode of trimming.

"Embroideries are revived by the tailors, and some of them being very rich and beautiful."